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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Thomas A. Figura  
 Title: METHOD AND STRUCTURE FOR IMPROVED ALIGNMENT TOLERANCE IN MULTIPLE,  
 SINGULARIZED PLUGS

Docket No.: 303.645US2  
 Filed: December 4, 2001  
 Examiner:

Serial No.: 10/004,656  
 Due Date: March 4, 2002  
 Group Art Unit: 2813

Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

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**APR 24 2002**

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

We are transmitting herewith the following attached items (as indicated with an "X"):

- A return postcard.  
 A Preliminary Amendment (3 Pages).

If an additional fee is required due to changes to the claims, the fee has been calculated as follows:

| CLAIMS AS AMENDED                       |  |   |  |                         |        |          |
|---|--|---|--|-------------------------|--------|----------|
|   | (1)<br>Claims<br>Remaining<br>After<br>Amendment |   | (2)<br>Highest<br>Number<br>Previously<br>Paid For | (3)<br>Present<br>Extra | Rate   | Fee      |
| TOTAL CLAIMS                            | 34   | - | 22   | 12                      | x 18 = | \$216.00 |
| INDEPENDENT CLAIMS                      | 6  | - | 3  | 3                       | x 84 = | \$252.00 |
| [ ] MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED |  |   |  |                         |        | \$0.00   |
| TOTAL                                   |  |   |  |                         |        | \$468.00 |

Please charge the required fee of \$468.00 to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

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 Atty: Viet V. Tong  
 Reg. No. 45,416

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 22 day of February, 2002.

Name: Tina Rugh

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(GENERAL)

S/N UnknownPATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Examiner: Unknown

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Docket: 303.645US2

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

When the above-identified patent application is taken up for consideration, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please add the following new claims:

- A1  
*[Signature]*
23. (New) An integrated circuit device comprising:  
first and a second surface structures, each having a top surface;  
an inner plug located in between the first and second surface structures and beneath the top surface of each of the first and second surface structures;  
a pair of outer plugs, each having an upper portion covered the top surface of one of the first and second surface structures;  
an inner electrical contact connected to the inner plug; and  
a pair of spacers for separating the inner plug and the inner electrical contact from the pair of outer plugs.
24. (New) The integrated circuit device of claim 23 further comprising a substrate connected to the first and second surface structures, the inner plug, and the pair of outer plugs.
25. (New) The integrated circuit device of claim 24, wherein the first and second surface structures are spaced apart along the substrate.